

Attorney Docket No.: **ABLE-0021**  
Inventors: **Secombes et al.**  
Serial No.: **10/088,780**  
Filing Date: **July 22, 2002**  
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This listing of the claims will replace all prior versions and listings of claims in the application:

**Listing of the claims:**

Claims 1-75 (canceled)

Claim 76 (currently amended): A gene construct for protection of a fish against viral haemorrhagic septicaemia virus (VHSV) comprising:

a non-infectious DNA nucleic acid construct encoding a viral haemorrhagic septicaemia virus-neutralizing single chain antibody BUL comprising Genebank Accession Number AF302092 with a DNA sequence

cagtgtgcta acatgagggc agtgtgtttg atgctgactg ctttattgtat  
gctggaatat gtgtgcggta gtgaccaggt gcagctgcag gagtcaggac  
ctggcctcgt gaaaccttct cagtctctgt ctctcacctg ctctgtcact  
ggctactcca tcaccagtgg ttattactgg acctggatcc ggagtttcc  
aggaaataaa ctggaatgga tgggctacat aagctacgac ggtaccaata  
actacaaccc atctctcaca aatcgaatct ccatcactcg tgacacatct  
aagaaccagt ttttcctgaa gttgaaatct gtgactactg aggacacagc  
tacatattac tgtgtaaagag ggtactacta tggtaacgac tggtttgctt  
actggggcca agggaccacg gtcaccgtct cctcagaagg caaatcttct  
ggctctggct ctgaatctaa agtggatgac atcgagctca cccagtcctcc  
tgcctcccag tctgcacatctc tgggagaaaag tgtcaccatc acatgcctgg  
caagtcagac cattggtaca tggtagcat ggtatcaaca gaaaccaggg  
aaatctcctc agtcctgtat ttatgctgca accagtttg cagatggggt  
cccatcaagg ttcagtggta gtggatctgg cacaattt tctttcaaga  
tcagcagcct acaggctgaa gatttgtaa gttattactg tcaacaactt  
tacagtactc cgtacacgtt cggaggggg accaagctcg agatcaaacg

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gactgtggct gcaccatctg tcttcatctt cccgccatct gatgagcagt  
tgaatctgg aactgcctct gttgtgtgcc tgctgaataa cttctatccc  
agagaggcca aagtacagtg gaaggtggat aacgcctcc aatcggtaa  
ctcccaggag agtgcacag agcaggacag caaggacagc acctacagcc  
tcagcagcac cctgacgctg agcaaagcag actacgagaa acacaaagtc  
tacgcctgcg aagtcaccca tcagggcctg agttcgcccg tcacaaagag  
cttcaaccgc ggagagtcat aagttagata tccat (SEQ ID NO:1)  
encoding a secretion signal of transforming growth factor  
beta linked to the 5' end of the single chain antibody  
BU1 gene, said sequence being inserted into a  
plasmid downstream a CMV promoter and upstream a poly  
adenylation signal.

Claim 77 (previously presented): A composition for  
passive immunization comprising the gene construct of claim  
76.

Claim 78 (previously presented): A method for  
prophylactically treating fish against viral haemorrhagic  
septicaemia virus comprising administering the composition  
of claim 77 to a fish via injection to the epaxial muscle  
below the dorsal fin of the fish.